

25 October 2005

Jon Adams, N7UV
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The Honorable Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

On the matter of the
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules To Implement WRC-03 Regulations Applicable
to Requirements for Operator Licenses in the Amateur Radio Service

Dear Commissioner Martin et alia;

I am writing today to voice my strong and enthusiastic support for the NPRM (WT Docket No. 05-235) to remove the requirement for the Morse Code as a prerequisite for obtaining any Amateur Radio License.

I have been a ham for over 30 years now, an Extra-Class licensee for the last 20 or so, and enjoy the privilege to use precious spectrum for public service, experimentation, and personal fulfillment and growth. I greatly appreciate the value of this spectrum, and have been frustrated during my "wireless-aware" life about the severe underutilization of the resource. The ranks of Amateur Radio have never been more in need of new, vibrant, and enthusiastic participants, fresh with novel ideas, practical experience derived from the Internet, Wi-Fi, and wireless technology, just as intrigued by ones and zeroes as they are with tank circuits and oscillators. The Morse Code as a gauntlet is of little value in measuring one's enthusiasm and commitment to do exciting work in wireless.

As the director of radio technology and strategy for a major semiconductor company, deeply involved with all forms of wireless, licensed or license-free, a voter within the IEEE 802 body, on the board of directors of two industry alliances dedicated to using license-free spectrum in novel yet responsible ways, I see tremendous enthusiasm for and understanding of wireless technology, as well as a strong commitment to do well for the consumer. The innovation that is occurring all around us today is due in no small part to those scientists, engineers and visionaries. To many of them, the mention of Amateur Radio brings to mind groups of gray hairs tapping on brass keys, an almost Luddite reaction toward innovation, and no spirit beyond occupying time in their senior years. Although I am a bit gray myself, I am deeply troubled by that image as I am sure that you are.

The Morse Code is an enjoyable pastime for many within the Service, and will not fade out just because the rules are modernized. However, I want this Service to breathe a new fire of innovation, and the Morse Code should not be used as a measure of one's worth to participate in the excitement. It is an Albatross about the neck of the Service and should be eliminated as a requirement.

Sincerely,

Jon Adams
N7UV